

COMMUNITY Notice

The mission of DTSC is to protect California's people and environment from harmful effects of toxic substances through the restoration of contaminated resources, enforcement, regulation and pollution prevention.

Important Community Wide Information on Exide Technologies, Vernon

Recently, soil samples were taken in two neighborhoods near the Exide Technologies facility in the City of Vernon for lead and other chemicals. These samples have been tested, and this flyer will discuss the results.

Last year, the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) ordered Exide to test the soil at 39 residential yards and two schools. Exide has been recycling batteries at the facility since 1922, and the sampling was an initial step to determine levels of lead and other chemicals, including arsenic in the community.

Preliminary results show no high levels of arsenic in any of the soil samples. The sampling did find lead levels in the yards of the 39 homes that require further testing and evaluation. Thus, DTSC is ordering Exide to submit plans to DTSC by March 21, 2014, for:

- Conducting additional sampling at the 39 homes, in the two neighborhoods and beyond to ensure DTSC has the necessary information to make decisions about future actions;
- Address lead concentrations in residential yards where it exceeds acceptable levels. Priority will be given to homes occupied by pregnant women or children, and where soil concentrations may represent a potential threat to human health or the environment.

While initial results indicate that lead is not a problem at the schools, one sample at Volunteers of America Salazar Park Head Start School was higher than expected. Out of caution, DTSC has ordered Exide to do more sampling at that school. This effort will help DTSC determine what next steps, if any, are necessary to protect public health.

For further information, contact us directly or come to an Open House on **Wednesday, March 19th, 2014**, from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm, at Resurrection Church, 3324 E. Opal Street, Los Angeles.

Here are some recommendations to protect your family from lead:

- Keep children away from areas of bare soil;
- Thoroughly wash children's hands, especially when they come inside the home;
- Place door mats inside and outside the entrance doors;
- Thoroughly wash any home-grown produce before eating them; and
- Grow produce in raised planter boxes.

For information on childhood lead prevention, call 1-800-LA-4-LEAD (5323). For more information, contact Stacey Lear, DTSC Public Participation Specialist, 5796 Corporate Avenue, Cypress, CA 90630-4732, (714) 484-5354, or via e-mail at : Stacey.Lear@dtsc.ca.gov.

